

## Message Text

SECRET

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65

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 050642

O 011640Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9923

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PORT OF SPAIN 2859

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TD, BB, US, PSDC

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MESSAGE PROPOSING CONSULTATION  
ON TERRORISM

REF: STATE 268218

SUMMARY: SECRETARY'S MESSAGE DELIVERED EARLY NOV 1 TO  
FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO PROMISED PROMPT RESPONSE AFTER  
CONSULTATION WITH PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS. FOREIGN  
MINISTER NOTED CONCERN THAT USG OFFER DID NOT INCLUDE  
GUYANA HOWEVER, AND COMMENTED ON CAREFUL TRINIDAD  
EFFORT NOT TO FEED CARICOM DISUNITY. EFFECT ON  
CARICOM UNITY OF GUYANESE REACTION TO RECENT SABOTAGE  
EPISODE IS OF CONCERN HERE. TRINIDAD RECEIVES BOMB  
THREATS RELATED TO IMPRISONMENT OF SABOTAGE  
SUSPECTS. END SUMMARY

1. FOREIGN MINISTER DONALDSON RECEIVED ME EARLY  
MONDAY NOV 1 FOR APPOINTMENT WHICH I HAD SOUGHT  
OVER THE WEEKEND IN ORDER TO DELIVER THE SECRETARY'S  
MESSAGE.

2. DONALDSON INFORMED ME HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY TAKE  
UP THE SECRETARY'S PORPOSAL WITH PRIME MINSTER  
WILLIAMS AND GIVE US THE PRIME MINISTER'S DECISION

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AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER DID EXPRESS ONE NOTE OF CONCERN REGARDING THE USG PROPOSAL, HOWEVER. HE COMMENTED ON THE FACT THAT THE OFFER OF CONFIDENTIAL CONSULTATION WAS BEING MADE ONLY TO VENEZUELA, BARBADOS, AND TRINIDAD, AND NOT TO GUYANA. DONALDSON REFERRED TO PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' CONCERN THAT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S ACTIONS NOT IN ANY WAY SERVE TO DIVIDE THE CARICOM COUNTRIES. THIS CONCERN HAD BEEN UPPERMOST IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S MIND WHEN HE CALLED THE FIVE-NATION CONSULTATIONS IN TRINIDAD TO DISCUSS THE CUBANA SABOTAGE INVESTIGATIONS.

4. I NOTED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL WAS MOST RELEVANT TO THOSE THREE COUNTRIES WHO HAD BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE RECENT INVESTIGATIONS, AND, WHEREAS GUYANA'S CONCERNS WERE UNDERSTOOD, GUYANA HAD NOT BEEN A LOCUS OF ACTUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATIONS. FURTHERMORE, AS THE MINISTER WOULD UNDERSTAND, THE UNFORTUNATE CHARGES WHICH GUYANA HAD RECENTLY LEVELLED AGAINST THE U.S. MADE IT RATHER DIFFICULT FOR US TO PROPOSE SPECIFIC COOPERATIVE ENDEAVORS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA AT THIS TIME.

5. WHEN DONALDSON REFERRED TO THE POSSIBLE DIFFICULTY OF FOUR-NATION CONSULTATIONS WHICH WOULD NOT INCLUDE GUYANA, HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE CONSULTATIONS PROPOSED WERE BILATERAL IN NATURE, NOT MULTI-LATERAL, AND WERE DESIGNED TO BE CONFIDENTIAL MEETINGS TO IMPROVE SHARING OF INFORMATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM RATHER THAN POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING SESSION. FURTHERMORE, IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT IF A MAJOR CONCERN OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO GOVERNMENT WAS THAT IT NOT APPEAR TO BE ACTING TO EXCLUDE GUYANA, THEN THAT COULD BE A PART OF THE TRINIDADIAN REPLY TO THE USG OFFER, PERHAPS REQUESTING THAT INsofar AS POSSIBLE THAT GOTT BE PERMITTED TO SHARE THE RESULTS OF THE USG CONSULTATION CONFIDENTIALLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA. IF THIS WERE THE GOTT WISH, THEN THE  
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REQUEST WOULD BE EVALUATED AND OUR GOVERNMENT WOULD RESPOND.

6. COMMENT: WHILE BELIEVE TRINIDAD WOULD HAVE FOUND PROPOSED USG INITIATIVE HIGHLY USEFUL EARLIER, THERE MAY BE A TENDENCY NOW TO FEEL THAT THEY HAVE SUCCESSFULLY DISPOSED OF THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM AND WOULD PREFER NOT TO INCUR THE COMPLICATIONS OF PURSUING THE ISSUE FURTHER. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE

ARE INFORMED THAT THE TELEPHONE COMPANY RECEIVED A BOMB THREAT OVER THE WEEKEND WHICH WAS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE CUBANA INVESTIGATION, ALTHOUGH IT IS UNCLEAR WHAT THE THREATS WERE SUPPOSED TO ACCOMPLISH. IF THE GOTT IS STILL BEING SUBJECTED TO THIS KIND OF HARRASSMENT, CONSULTATION AND SHARING OF INFORMATION ON THE NATURE OF THE TERRORIST THREAT AND POSSIBLE STEPS TO DEAL WITH IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE FROM A SECURITY STANDPOINT.

7. THE DAMAGE TO CARICOM UNITY EMERGING FROM THE RECENT CUBANA EPISODE HAS BECOME A REAL CONCERN IN INFORMED CIRCLES HERE IN TRINIDAD, AND EMBASSY HAS BEEN HEARING COMMENTS ON THIS FROM MANY SOURCES. GUYANESE PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM'S ATTACKS ON THE BARBADIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN THE MOST OFTEN CITED WORRY. EDITORIAL IN TRINIDAD'S SUNDAY "EXPRESS" OCT 31 SUGGESTED THAT "SOMEBODY IS SETTING US UP" AND DESTROYING COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN UNITY. ALTHOUGH THE WRITER NITED THE USA "IS HOVERING OVER IT ALL", THE THRUST OF THE EDITORIAL WAS TO SUGGEST THAT GUYANA MAY HAVE BECOME A PAWN OF CUBAN EFFORTS TO DIVIDE THE CARIBBEAN AND USE THE GOVERNMENTS FOR ITS OWN PRIVATE PURPOSES. THE EDITORIAL STATED: QUOTE SOMEBODY, IT SEEMS HAS A VESTED INTEREST IN A CARIBBEAN BACCHANAL. SOMEBODY APPEARS TO THINK THAT HIS CAUSE OR HIS COUNTRY WILL PROFIT IF, FOR EXAMPLE, GUYANA AND CUBA TOGETHER COULD CONFRONT THE REST OF THE CARIBBEAN AND PERHAPS VENEZUELA UNQUOTE, AND CONCLUDED THAT CARIBBEAN POLITICIANS MIGHT SPEAK A BIT MORE SOFTLY WHEN THEY HAVE NO BIG STICK. ESSENTIALLY, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR US TO PROCEED IN A MANNER WHICH DOES NOT PLACE UPON US THE ONUS FOR CARIBBEAN DISUNITY  
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WHICH SO OBVIOUSLY IN THIS INSTANCE DOES FALL AT THE DOORSTEP OF GUYANESE LEADERS AND CUBAN INFLUENCE.

8. WE WILL REPORT BY IMMEDIATE CABLE AS SOON AS GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE IS RECEIVED TO THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE. MEANWHILE, DEPT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER PASSING THIS MESSAGE AND REFTEL TO GEORGETOWN FOR INFO.  
FAY

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 OCT 1976  
**DecapTION Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**DecapTION Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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